
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness in
2 Hawaii is a long-term problem. The legislature acknowledges
3 that homelessness requires greater collaboration and
4 coordination among diverse government entities, businesses,
5 nonprofit organizations, and faith-based organizations. In
6 pursuit of this goal, the legislature enacted Act 105, Session
7 Laws of Hawaii 2012 (Act 105). Act 105, in part, formally
8 established the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness,
9 which had been temporarily created through Executive Order No.
10 11-21. Act 105 allowed the council to continue identifying
11 critical strategic goals and initiatives that would mitigate
12 homelessness while ensuring that persons experiencing
13 homelessness could obtain permanent housing and become
14 reintegrated into the community. As one of its statutory
15 duties, on September 10, 2012, the council adopted a unified
16 statewide ten-year plan. At that time, the point-in-time count,
17 or the annual one-day unduplicated count of sheltered and
18 unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness,



1 totaled 7,921 statewide. Eight years later, in 2020, the point-
2 in-time count totaled 6,458.

3 While the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness has a
4 ten-year plan, the legislature further finds that the State
5 lacks a long-term commitment to prevent, reduce, and end
6 homelessness. The legislature also finds that various state
7 agencies and programs that address homelessness have been built
8 up on a piecemeal basis and have approached homelessness in a
9 similar manner. There is no central agency tasked with reducing
10 and preventing homelessness through the coordination of effort
11 between state and local government agencies and private
12 entities.

13 The legislature recognizes that year-to-year funding,
14 rather than consistent funding in the base budget, creates
15 uncertainty for the staff of a program. For example, in 2019,
16 the legislature enacted Act 81, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
17 which appointed the governor's coordinator on homelessness to
18 administer and enforce the duties and responsibilities of the
19 council. The coordinator is currently funded as a special
20 project under the department of human services, while the
21 coordinator's full-time staff of four are not permanent



1 employees. In addition, year-to-year funding among agencies and
2 providers for homeless services threatens already potentially
3 sporadic and fragmented services, instead of providing
4 consistent support that will help permanently house persons
5 experiencing homelessness in the State.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 7 (1) Establish the office on homelessness and housing
8 solutions;
- 9 (2) Appropriate funds for the administration of the office
10 on homelessness and housing solutions; and
- 11 (3) Establish five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE)
12 permanent positions to carry out the objectives of the
13 office on homelessness and housing solutions.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new subpart to part XVIII to be
16 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

17 " STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS

18 **§346-A Definitions.** As used in this subpart, unless the
19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 "Coordinator" means the governor's coordinator on
21 homelessness as provided in section 346-381.5.



1 "Office" means the statewide office on homelessness and
2 housing solutions.

3 §346-B Statewide office on homelessness and housing
4 solutions; establishment. There is established within the
5 department of human services, for administrative purposes only,
6 the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions that
7 shall:

- 8 (1) Work with state, county, and community agencies to
9 develop solutions to prevent and end homelessness in
10 the State through transitional and permanent housing
11 and supportive or assisted services, or both; and
12 (2) Develop and test innovative solutions to prevent and
13 end homelessness in the State.

14 §346-C Administration. (a) The office shall be headed by
15 the governor's coordinator on homelessness, appointed pursuant
16 to section 346-381.5, for the proper administration and
17 enforcement of this subpart.

18 (b) The coordinator shall report directly to the governor
19 and appoint staff as may be necessary.

20 (c) The employees of the office shall be appointed without
21 regard to chapter 76.



1 **§346-D Duties and responsibilities.** The office shall:

2 (1) Identify and address gaps in the homeless service
3 system by:

4 (A) Developing a standard strategy for coordinated
5 entry, needs assessment, and allocation of
6 services and housing types to create pathways to
7 permanent assisted and independent housing;

8 (B) Working with state departments and agencies to
9 develop and maintain multi-year strategic and
10 tactical plans and road maps as a part of the
11 Hawaii interagency council on homelessness'
12 unified ten-year statewide plan;

13 (C) Coordinating matters relating to homelessness and
14 affordable housing between state and county
15 agencies and private entities; and

16 (D) Developing and testing innovative solutions to
17 prevent and end homelessness through
18 collaboration with appropriate agencies;

19 (2) Provide administrative support for the Hawaii
20 interagency council on homelessness in developing the



1 council's unified ten-year statewide plan to address
2 homelessness in all counties of the State; and

- 3 (3) Establish and maintain a statewide homelessness and
4 housing data clearinghouse, which may include
5 information on persons experiencing homelessness and
6 available services, shelters, and housing.

7 **§346-E Annual report.** The coordinator shall submit an
8 annual progress report to the legislature no later than twenty
9 days prior to the convening of each regular session. The report
10 shall include:

- 11 (1) Performance metrics relating to reducing the number of
12 persons experiencing homelessness in the State;
13 (2) Performance metrics relating to housing and services
14 inventory gaps, including but not limited to the
15 number of persons experiencing homelessness served and
16 placed into permanent housing and the cost per person
17 served; and
18 (3) Performance metrics to evaluate the State's
19 performance on homeless services, housing, care
20 coordination, and other needed services to end
21 homelessness in the State."



SECTION 3. Chapter 346, part XVIII, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending its title to read as follows:

"[~~{} PART XVIII. {} HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON~~] STATEWIDE HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS"

SECTION 4. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by designating sections 346-381, 346-381.5, 346-382, and 346-383 under part XVIII as subpart A and inserting a title before section 346-381 to read as follows:

"A. Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness"

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the administration of the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions; provided that:

- (1) Each county may provide support for programs within its county; and
- (2) Five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) permanent positions shall be established to carry out the objectives of the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions established by section 3 of this Act.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by section
4 3 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
5 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
6 the new sections in this Act.

7 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
10 provided that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions; Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions within the Department of Human Services to be headed by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Appropriates funds for the administration of the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. Establishes five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) positions. (CD1)

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